



nTouch

August 2006

Volume Twelve - Number Three



County's Emergency Response is Tested by Mother Nature

Summer 2006 began with a series of powerful storms during late June through mid-July which impacted several states along the Northeast Coast and caused severe flooding and wind damage in many areas of Montgomery County. Over twelve inches of rain fell on the region between June 25th and July 8th and the severity of these rain storms caused the National Weather Service (NWS) to issue Flash Flood Warnings for the county.

During this time, Montgomery County emergency management officials monitored public safety issues, flooding conditions, streams and watersheds, road closures and the water levels of designated high-risk dams within the county. On June 27th Bruce Romer, Montgomery County Chief Administrative Officer, activated the County's Emergency Management Group (EMG) because of the high water levels in Lake Needwood and potentially unstable conditions at the base of the dam, that is owned and maintained by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC). County department representatives, external agency representatives and other EMG representatives reported to the Emergency Operations Center to begin planning for the emergency, which included the notification of residents, mandatory evacuation of designated residential areas below Lake Needwood dam in the Upper Rock Creek watershed, shelter and transportation operations, road closures, sustaining public safety services, and public information. A technical assessment of the dam's condition led by the County's

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Women's Commission Project Helps Immigrants

As the most diverse jurisdiction in Maryland, Montgomery County has the largest immigrant community in Maryland, with more than 240,000 residents, or over one quarter of the population, having been born outside the United States. Sixty-nine percent of that population participates in the local workforce and of that group of workers, more than 63 percent are women.

Recognizing that these women often face the most serious challenges to finding jobs and needed services for their families, the Montgomery County Commission for Women has begun an educational, informational campaign designed to provide immigrant women with the resources they need to succeed in the workplace.

The Immigrant Women Obtaining Resources and Knowledge (IWORK) program focuses on bringing relevant information to women workers and to help educate employers and the general public about the unique challenges faced by immigrant women in the workforce. The IWORK project centers around three issues — sexual harassment, employment rights of pregnant women and rights of domestic workers.

Low wages, long hours, discrimination based on gender or race, sexual harassment, and lack of maternity benefits, are some of the real life challenges facing women in the workplace. These issues are heightened for immigrant women where language and cultural barriers may prevent access to information about worker rights.

The educational campaign features three brochures, one covering each issue. They will be available in English and the other most commonly spoken languages in Montgomery County. "Sexual Harassment in the Workplace" is designed to assist supervisors, managers and employees to recognize, prevent and address the issue and to promote a work environment free from sexual harassment. It defines sexual harassment and covers topics such as Prohibited Conduct, Legal Protection, Some Actions Victims Can Take, What



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Message from the County Executive



DOUGLAS M. DUNCAN

Dear Friends:

During recent months, Montgomery County has experienced an unusual summer due to weather-related conditions. Torrential rains and a record-setting heat wave caused unforeseen circumstances in the lives of county residents. Disruptions in electrical power caused difficulties in our neighborhoods. In response to the unexpected situations, County departments, coordinated by the Department of Homeland Security, quickly responded to the needs of county residents to resolve emergency situations, some of which were life-threatening to the vulnerable members of our population.

These recent difficulties remind us that it is necessary for individuals and families to have an emergency preparedness plan in place in advance of a crisis or unforeseen circumstances. To help you and your families develop an emergency preparedness plan, I invite you to visit the Montgomery County web site at www.montgomerycountymd.gov. At the Department of Homeland Security web page you can sign up for Alert Montgomery to receive emergency notification for severe weather and transportation

alerts. You may also select from a variety of information that can assist you in developing a family emergency plan. Other information topics include practical hints of items that you and your family will need in case of an emergency or a disaster.

The Montgomery County web page, under the listing of Emergency Preparedness, also provides the Montgomery County Home Guide to Emergency Preparedness. This guide is a valuable document listing important telephone numbers and step-by-step instructions on how to prepare your home for an emergency situation. In addition to the English version, the guide is available in Spanish, Cambodian, Chinese, Farsi, French, Korean, Russian, and Vietnamese.

Moreover, Montgomery County is opening up a new training class in September for residents who are interested in serving as front-line emergency response assistants during large emergencies. The training program will certify participants - who attended all seven classes - to be community emergency response team (CERT) members. We want to have a stronger, safer, and prepared community. Please call the Homeland Security Department at 240-777-2202 for more information if you are interested in this training.

Sincerely,

Douglas M. Duncan
County Executive

Douglas M. Duncan, County Executive
Bruce Romer, Chief Administrative Officer
Fariba Kassiri, Assistant CAO

Office of Community Outreach:

Debbie Resnick, Manager

Cindy Chan, Asian Pacific American Liaison

Tina Clarke, African American/Black Liaison

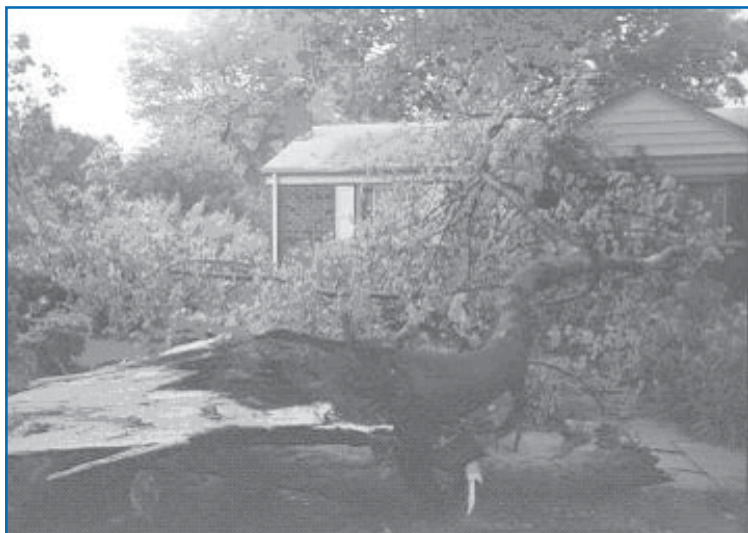
Joe Heiney-Gonzalez, Latino/Hispanic Liaison

101 Monroe Street, Rockville, Maryland 20850
(240) 777-2500 Fax: (240) 777-2517

Submissions, comments and event announcements can be emailed to: InTouch@montgomerycountymd.gov. Those received by the first of March, June, September or December will be considered for the next issue of *In Touch*. Articles may be reproduced or translated into other languages with attribution.

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Mother Nature *from page 1*



Department of Environmental Protection subsequently revealed a threat of dam failure at Lake Needwood. Around midnight on June 27th, County Executive Doug Duncan declared a local public emergency ordering the evacuation of designated areas to ensure the public's safety.

A unified incident command had been established under the direction of the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) and included the Sheriff's Office, Fire and Rescue, Public Works and Transportation, Ride On, Montgomery County Public Schools and other law enforcement personnel from M-NCPPC, Rockville and Gaithersburg. The incident command had planned for the evacuation of over 2100 residents at designated areas along Upper Rock Creek and immediately executed the order within a three-hour period.

The Department of Health and Human Services, including personnel from the Public Health Services, the Department of Recreation, the Volunteer Center, the County Regional Services Centers and the Montgomery County Public Schools, supported the American Red Cross in the operation of shelters at Wheaton and Walter Johnson High Schools over a three-day period. Over 400 displaced residents using our shelters during the peak of the evacuation activity — the largest number of people ever sheltered during an emergency event in the county. Residents with pets were sheltered at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds in Gaithersburg with the support of MCPD Animal Control, Fairground staff, City of Gaithersburg staff and volunteers. Citizen volunteers from Montgomery County Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) assisted with shelter operations in three locations, while other citizen volunteers operated the County's Flood Hotline, supported shelter operations and other emergency response activities.

At about 10:00 p.m. on June 29th, an announcement allowed residents to return to their homes in the evacuated areas when it was determined that the dam was not in danger of imminent collapse. The MCPD coordinated with other departments, agencies and CERT volunteers, return of residents and provided information regarding emergency notifications and plans for immediate evacuation if warranted.

"The emergency response efforts by County officials and numerous other agencies were successful because of the excellent cooperation of our residents," stated Mr. Romer. He added: "Our continual emphasis on emergency planning,

training and exercises is the key to preparedness; however, our residents must also be prepared by having a family emergency preparedness plan and emergency supplies."

In addition, storm-related damage to the county and our emergency response on July 2nd in the Glenmont area and on July 4th in the Kensington area allowed the County to receive a FEMA declaration of public assistance and hazard mitigation on July 27, 2006. This FEMA Disaster Declaration for Montgomery County covers the period of June 22nd to July 12th and makes the County, County agencies, municipalities and nonprofit organizations eligible to receive federal reimbursement for certain response and hazard mitigation-related costs. The County's Department of Homeland Security is currently coordinating the application for federal reimbursement assistance for response and mitigation projects.

For questions or additional information, please contact Miguel Ascarrunz, Emergency Manager with the Homeland Security Department, Office of Emergency Management at 240-777-2300 or miguel.ascarrunz@montgomerycountymd.gov

Community Use of Athletic Fields



Montgomery County provides many athletic fields to support the recreational needs of community groups and residents. Athletic fields in Montgomery County are open from sunrise to sunset. New policies regulating the use of

fields were recently developed.

A permit is now required for groups using any field next to a Montgomery County public school. For fields operated by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, permit holders have priority use and others may use the fields on a first-come first-served basis. Signs at each facility clearly mark which properties are school properties and which are owned by Park and Planning.

The Community Use of Public Facilities (CUPF) office issues permits for fields on most school properties except for high schools. Field use at all high schools is scheduled by each high school individually. The other exception is that Park and Planning, not CUPF, issues permits for 19 elementary and middle schools. For a complete list of athletic fields at all Montgomery County schools, visit www.parkpermits.org. This website lists the office, with contact information, that is responsible for issuing permits for use of athletic fields at all schools.

To obtain a permit to use fields located on Park and Planning properties, residents should call the Park Permit office at (301) 495-2525 or visit 9500 Brunnett Avenue, Silver Spring. This office is open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Permits are also available online at www.parkpermits.org.

To obtain a permit to use fields located on school property, call Community Use of Public Facilities at (240) 777-2706 or visit 600 Jefferson Plaza, Suite 300, Rockville. CUPF is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Permits are also available online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cupf.

Profile: **Betty Lam** Office of Community Affairs

Since July 2004, Betty Lam has served as the Chief of the Office of Community Affairs (OCA) in Montgomery County's Department of Health and Human Services. OCA's primary goal is to outreach and link all of Montgomery County's diverse populations to the over 120 health and social programs and services provided by HHS.

One large component of Betty's job is to implement the department's Limited English Proficiency (LEP) policy to eliminate remaining language and culture barriers for residents seeking services from the County. Betty ensures that HHS complies with all federal, state and local language access guidelines. She conducts LEP training classes for HHS staff and works closely with the Offices of the County Executive on countywide LEP policy development and implementation. Because of the critical nature of its services, language access is vitally important for HHS.

The office also serves as the central coordinating unit for the entire department to enhance outreach to the county's underserved and under-represented communities. Often, health and human service programs have different eligibility requirements due to different regulations when the funding sources for these programs were initially developed. These variances in eligibility requirements – income level, citizenship status, family status, etc. – can be extremely complicated. The Office of Community Affairs plays a key role in coordinating client intake and information exchange to maximize service delivery to eligible residents.

The Office of Community Affairs reports directly to HHS Director Carolyn Colvin, who created the office three years ago. Betty works with Luis Martinez, who has been with Montgomery County for over a dozen years, first in the Linkages to Learning program and then at the Upcounty Regional Services Center in Germantown. Over this time, Luis has acquired an extensive knowledge of the county's services, programs, neighborhoods and communities. Betty and Luis work extremely well together as a team. Because of their language skills, Betty and Luis can communicate with over half of the county's LEP population.

Betty works closely with the Community Action Agency and beginning in July of 2006, the Department of Health and Human Services decided to centralize the operation of the Office of Minority and Multicultural Health for an interim period to provide Director Carolyn Colvin a more active role in



BETTY LAM

promoting coordination and collaboration among the minority health initiatives within that office. Betty has been tapped by Director Colvin to assist in that effort.

Betty came to Montgomery County from the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, where she served as the community outreach liaison. During her tenure, the primary goal of the Initiative was to compose a report to the President on health disparities facing the nation's Asian American and Pacific Islander community. The Initiative held public meetings throughout the country to obtain insight and feedback from residents, community leaders and service providers on health issues facing the community.

Betty managed the Asian Health Initiative and directed interpreter services for the New England Medical Center in downtown Boston, an affiliate of Tufts Medical School. She directed cultural competency training and developed profiles of immigrant patients to analyze their medical, linguistic and cultural needs. Betty also worked as an interpreter in both medical and legal settings. In fact, she passed the vigorous FBI linguist test and was certified to be a FBI interpreter and translator, although she did not take an assignment from the FBI before moving to another position. Because of her professional experience, Betty has gained an understanding of the health care system from multiple perspectives: in managing direct service delivery, in community relations, in policy enforcement and in facilitating service delivery as an interpreter.

Betty was also with the Office of Civil Rights for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the federal agency responsible for monitoring LEP compliance nationwide. Betty specifically worked on LEP implementation and compliance, including researching best practice models for language access. Her work included promoting cultural competency policies and training for federal agencies in outreach to the Native American community.

Betty graduated with a journalism degree from Ohio State University and was the managing editor of a bilingual newspaper in Boston soon after college. Betty and her husband Alven, who works at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, live in Potomac with their daughter Erika, a Wootton High School graduate who will attend Boston University in the fall, and their son Derek, who just finished his first year at Wootton.

FREE Discount Prescription Drug Cards Available to all Residents



Montgomery County residents who do not have prescription drug coverage are encouraged to use the Montgomery Rx prescription drug discount cards when filling prescriptions. The Montgomery Rx program provides FREE prescription discount cards to county residents.

The cards are easy to use and offer average savings of 20 percent

off the retail price of commonly prescribed drugs. Since the program began, county residents have saved more than \$2.6 million on the price of prescription drugs.

The cards may be used by all county residents, regardless of age, income, or existing health coverage, and are accepted at more than 120 pharmacies in Montgomery County.

Residents can find the FREE cards at all County libraries, County health and human services locations, regional service centers and at participating pharmacies throughout Montgomery County. For more information go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov and click on Montgomery Rx or call 240-777-1245.

County Executives Doug Duncan, Jack Johnson and Representative Chris Van Hollen Inaugurate Crossroads Youth Opportunity Center

On May 1, 2006 Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan, Prince George's County Executive Jack Johnson and Congressman Chris Van Hollen opened the Crossroads Youth Opportunity Center. The Center, located at 7676 New Hampshire Avenue in Takoma Park, is a joint partnership between the two largest counties in Maryland designed to provide prevention and intervention services for youth and their family members. The primary mission of the Center is to provide alternatives for individuals involved with or at-risk of joining gangs. The Crossroads Youth Opportunity Center was a key recommendation of the Joint County Gang Prevention Task Force mobilized by the two county executives in February 2004.

At the inauguration of the Center, Representative Chris Van Hollen announced a \$2.3 million federal allocation to help support joint county initiatives. These initiatives include the Center, community-based after-school programs and other services including increased neighborhood public safety measures. The total cost for the Crossroads Youth Opportunity Center is more than \$600,000 and it is funded by a combination of local funding from Montgomery and Prince George's County, as well as federal funding announced by Congressman Van Hollen.

Services provided at the Center are provided through collaborative partnerships led by Identity, Inc, a county nonprofit agency. Other participants in the public/private collaboration with Identity are Price, Inc., YMCA/Youth and Family Services, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Montgomery County and the Montgomery County and Prince George's County Office of the Public Defender.

The range of Center services provided to youth and their families include youth development programs; family strengthening programs; mentoring services; group support for incarcerated youth; relocation and safety planning; individual, group and family therapy; case management and referral services; job training and placement services; legal support and representation; and educational support services (GED, ESOL, tutoring).



Prince George's County Executive Jack Johnson, Congressman Chris Van Hollen, Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan, Takoma Park Mayor Kathy Porter and four youth participants, at the May opening of Crossroads Youth Opportunity Center.

Minority/Female Business Affairs Manager Appointed

Emphasizing his commitment to the continued growth and success of the county's minority and women-owned businesses, Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan announced his selection of Katie Knowlin as the County's Minority/Female Business Affairs Manager. For the past five years, Katie has served as the Director of the Office of Minority Business Enterprise for the State of Maryland. Katie will work out of the Department of Economic Development and report directly to the Executive to make expanding minority and women-owned business opportunities a top priority.

Last year, minority, female and disabled firms (MFD) received nearly \$90 million in County contracts, and during the Duncan Administration, minority contracts have increased nearly 100 percent. Twenty-one percent of all procurement contracts — more than \$500 million — have been awarded to MFD firms in the past ten years. MFD firms have received more than \$1.7 million in loans or grants through the County's economic development funds and over 50 percent of the tenants in Montgomery County business incubators are minority or female-owned firms.

Katie was named Director of the State's Office of Minority Business Enterprise in 2001. Housed in the Maryland Department of Transportation, Katie supervised and provided direction for a 30-member professional staff responsible for developing and maintaining regulations regarding the certification process for minority business enterprises, both for the Maryland MBE Program and the Federal Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program. In that role she served as Chair of the Maryland MBE Certification Advisory Committee and Administrator for the Maryland MBE Utilization Study. Prior to being named Director, Katie served as a transportation policy analyst at MDOT, responsible for reviewing, analyzing and developing recommendations regarding transportation policy issues for the Department.

Katie first came to public service in 1985 when she was named a Special Assistant in Governor Schaefer's Office of Minority Affairs. She went on to serve in numerous capacities, including fiscal policy specialist at the Department of Human Resources and then Assistant Director and Manager of Program and Business Development in the Office of Minority Business Enterprise. Prior to joining State Government, Katie was the owner of a small business based in Baltimore and served as Community Development Specialist for the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington, D.C.

Katie has won numerous awards for her work, including the National Association of Purchasing Management of Maryland Outstanding Dedication and Service Award and Community Service Awards from the Eastern Shore Contractor's Association, the American Minority Contractors Association and the Korean Business Association. Katie earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Clark Atlanta University and a M.C.P. from the University of Maryland School of Social Work and Community Planning. She lives in Baltimore.

To learn more about this program, please call Katie Knowlin at 240-777-2000 or email your questions to katie.knowlin@montgomerycountymd.gov

Project Helps Immigrants *from page 1*

Every Employer Should Know and Actions Employers Should Take. It is available in English, Spanish, Korean, Chinese and Vietnamese.

"Employment Rights of Pregnant Women in Maryland" includes the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, The Family and Medical Leave Act and The Maryland Human Relations Law Article 49B that addresses pregnancy disability, and a Q&A section. It is available in English, Spanish, Korean, Chinese and Vietnamese.

The "Employment Guide for Domestic Workers" brochure addresses topics such as: Your Interview with the Employer; How to Protect Yourself on the Job; Your Rights (under state and federal laws); and a section entitled "What to Do If..." that answers questions about how to deal with on-the-job challenges. It is available in English, Spanish and French.

Each of the three brochures includes information on where to find assistance. In addition, members of the Women's Commission are available to speak to groups about the campaign. For more information about the IWORK project, to request a speaker or to obtain copies of the brochures, contact the Montgomery County Commission for Women at (240) 777-8300 or email cfw@montgomerycountymd.gov. The brochures may be also viewed on the Commission's website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw.

Welcome Cindy Chan and Best Wishes to Shu-Ping Chan

Please welcome Cindy Chan, new Asian Pacific American Liaison, to the Office of Community Outreach, Offices of the County Executive. Cindy comes to us from the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services where she served as the assistant supervisor in the Income Support Office of the Department of Health and Human Services. She has worked closely for many years with people of all cultures, languages, socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds. She brings with her a wealth of knowledge in County departments, agencies, programs and outreach services. Cindy also actively serves on boards and committees in her neighborhood community, school and church. Cindy received her bachelor's degree in Community Services from the Michigan State University and her master's degree in Educational Psychology from the University of Michigan. You can reach Cindy at 240-777-2500 or email her at Cindy.Chan@montgomerycountymd.gov.

The Office of Community Outreach extends their best wishes to Shu-Ping Chan who resigned his position with our office to spend more time with his family and to pursue a career in law and financial management and to co-author a book on immigration. While we will miss Shu-Ping, we are certain he will continue to be active in the community.



Conflict Resolution Help Available *by Harold Kessler*

The Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County (CRCMC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing quality dispute resolution services at no cost to Montgomery County individuals, neighborhoods, communities and County agencies. CRCMC offers mediation in English and Spanish, community conferencing (a program to conference with youth who have caused harm), facilitation of public meetings and training. Examples of CRCMC projects supporting County agencies include:

- Mediation in the District Courts in Rockville and Silver Spring to assist parties in resolving disputes in the small claims docket of cases where the disputed amount is less than \$5,000;
- Mediation for the District Court peace order docket to assist parties in resolving issues resulting in complaints to the court, usually where one party seeks a court order to legally keep another party away;
- Mediation for the State's Attorney's Office to assist parties in resolving disputes that resulted in a formal criminal complaint;
- Mediation for the Commission on Common Ownership to assist parties in resolving disputes between property owners and their association boards;
- Mediation for the Department of Health & Human Services and their clients to define or explore conditions under which young mothers can remain at home rather than enter the shelter system;
- Partnering with Montgomery County Public Schools to mediate interpersonal disputes between public school personnel;
- On referrals from such agencies as the Department of Juvenile Justice, Police, Public Schools, and Park & Planning to facilitate community conferences to assist in resolving communitywide disputes;
- A restorative justice program which works with youth and the community to right harm that has been caused.

In addition to these activities for County agencies, CRCMC responds to a wide range of requests for conflict resolution services from individuals, families, neighborhoods and community organizations.

The Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County is located at 2424 Reedy Drive, Suite 301, Wheaton and can be reached at (301) 942-7700, crcofmc@aol.com or www.crcmc.org.

Financial Assistance for Child Care Expenses

Montgomery County is offering financial assistance to assist working families with childcare expenses. With the cost of childcare for working families continuing to escalate, financial assistance is available to qualifying county parents through two Child Care Subsidy programs—the Purchase of Care (POC) and Working Parents Assistance (WPA).

The Purchase of Care Program (POC) is a federal-funded and state-funded program administered by the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services. POC helps low-income families pay for childcare while parents work or attend school or perform job training. Subsidies are offered for care provided by childcare centers, registered family childcare homes and informal care. Informal care is care by a relative in the child's or relative's home, or care provided by a non-relative in the child's home.

The Working Parents Assistance Program (WPA) is a county-funded program, also administered by the Department of Health and Human Services. It provides help for low-income families with incomes slightly higher than the Purchase of Care program guidelines.

Depending on the number of children in care and their ages, parents may be eligible if their income falls within certain income guidelines. The goal of these programs is to ensure that Montgomery County families have access to quality childcare. For more information or to receive an application, call (240) 777-1155 or (240) 777-1009 (TTY).

Juneteenth Celebration

On June 13, Montgomery County hosted the 10th annual Juneteenth celebration that featured world-renowned jazz artist and Montgomery County public school graduate Marcus Johnson. With feet tapping, hands clapping and heads bobbing in unison to the smooth and rhythmic sounds of Marcus Johnson and his band, a packed house at the BlackRock Center for the Arts in Germantown was provided with entertainment, history and inspiration.

Juneteenth is emancipation day in the African American community. June 19, 1865 is historically recognized as the day that news of the Emancipation Proclamation, signed two years earlier in 1863 by President Abraham Lincoln, finally reached the last enslaved Americans in Texas near the end of the Civil War. The day June 19th evolved over time into the celebrated term "Juneteenth."

In addition to Marcus Johnson, jazz ensembles from John F. Kennedy, James Hubert Blake and Montgomery Blair high schools performed at the event. What a thrill it must have been for the high school musicians to share the stage with such an established artist! Johnson talked about the value of education, hard work and how growing up in Montgomery County and having mentors who provided him with the framework to succeed in life. With graduate degrees in law and business, Johnson said some may view a musical career as somewhat disjointed with his education. However, Johnson said, everyone should take advantage of all their options and pursue their dreams.

Having recently returned from the Gulf States that are still recovering from Hurricane Katrina, he reminded the audience of the good fortune of living in Montgomery County, a community dedicated to education, jobs creation and a good quality of life. Residents can see and hear Marcus Johnson live at the Silver Spring Jazz Festival on September 9 and at various locations in Bethesda and Washington DC in upcoming months.

NACo Recognizes Montgomery County's Quality Programs and Services

The National Association of Counties (NACo) awarded thirty-seven 2006 Achievement Awards to Montgomery County in recognition of its creative and innovative program development and implementation, efficient administrative management of county agencies and responsible government services to county residents.

Acknowledging NACo's awards announcements County Executive Douglas Duncan stated: "These awards honor the hard work and dedication of all of our employees who work so hard to serve the residents of Montgomery County." I am especially proud of the innovative and varied programs that won awards this year."

The following departments and programs received awards:

- **County Executive's Office** – Joint County Gang Prevention Plan;
- **Corrections and Rehabilitation** – Community Reentry Identification Card Program;
- **Economic Development** – Business Incubator Program; Workforce Investment Services Program;
- **Environmental Protection** – Volunteers in Planting for Stream Protection;
- **Finance** – Mortgage Lender Tax Payment Website;
- **Health and Human Services** – Silver Spring Senior Source; Consolidated Drug Testing Service Provides Efficiency and Cost Savings; Responding to Public Health Emergencies for Non-Medical Personnel: A Training Program; Electronic Cares Emergency Services Check; Attorneys and Social Workers Working Together; African American Health Program Diabetes Project; Department 64 Financial Data Access; Childlink; Black Babies S.M.I.L.E. (Start More Infants Living Equally); Behavioral Health and Crisis Services Office of Consumer Affairs; Literacy Learning Parties; Hurricane Katrina Evacuee Relief; Generous Juror Program; Emergency Preparedness Evaluation Tool for Health Care Facility;
- **Housing and Community Affairs** – Pedestrian Linkages Program; Pine Ridge Community Center—Fulfilling the American Dream;
- **Human Resources** – Electronic Charity Campaign Management System; Managing Health Care Costs; Celebrating Diversity;
- **Libraries** – Expanding Library Services for Seniors; Reader's Café: A Virtual Meeting Place for Books and Readers; English Conversation Clubs;
- **Public Works and Transportation** – Snow Operations Tracking System; Employee Training and Education Program;
- **Technology Services** – Open Source Web Application Monitor—HEARTBEAT; Targeting Programs and Enhancing Revenues with the Help of GIS; Serving up GIS Data for Emergency Managers; Training Management System; Commercial Wireless Integration;
- **Volunteer Center** – Telephone Reassurance for Caregivers Program; and Pro Bono Consultant Program.

Office of Community Outreach
Offices of County Executive Douglas M. Duncan
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, Maryland 20850

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CommunityEvents

The 36th Annual Labor Day Art Show at Glen Echo Park

Saturday, September 2 – Monday, September 4, 2006,
12:00 noon – 6 p.m.

Free Event; features the work of more than 150 regional artists - both children and adults. The historic Dentzel Carousel will be operating throughout the show. The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture Inc. invites artists of all ages and skill levels to display any original artwork. There is a required \$25 entrance fee to participate in this non-juried show. The Partnership will facilitate any artwork sales and retain a 30% commission. For more information, go to: http://www.glenechopark.org/docs/Labor_Day_Art_Show_2006_Forms.pdf

The 2nd Annual Hispanic Heritage Month

"AMA TU VILDA"/LOVE YOUR LIFE HEALTH FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 23, 2006, 12 noon – 5pm

The Offices of the County Executive will co-sponsor this Health Festival at Wheaton Regional Park, 2000 Shorefield Road, Wheaton, MD. County residents are invited to attend the event and visit the public and private exhibit tables that will include free health screenings and resource materials about County services. For your enjoyment there will be live entertainment and fun activities for family members of all ages. Watch for additional information about this fun event in your local neighborhoods. For more information call Joe Heiney-Gonzalez at the Office of Community Outreach at 240-777-2500.

2006 Diversity Month Celebration

Theme: "Delving into Differences, Extracting Many Treasures"

October 1 – November 1, 2006

The Office of Human Resources EEO & Diversity Management Team in conjunction with the Montgomery County Diversity Council is pleased to announce the 2006 Diversity Month Celebration. Throughout the month of October, 2006, the County will host and sponsor diversity-related events, speakers, and entertainment. The month-long diversity celebration will culminate with the 12th Annual Diversity Day celebration on Wednesday, November 1, 2006 from 9:30am to 2:00pm in the Executive Office Building located at 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD. More detailed information will be forthcoming from the EEO & Diversity Management Team. Call 240-777-5017 for more information.

The 17th Annual Taste of Bethesda

Saturday, October 7, 2006, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Bethesda's famous food and music festival brings 50 restaurants and four stages of entertainment to Bethesda's Woodmont Triangle. More than 35,000 attendees sample the diverse restaurants, enjoy the live entertainment and visit the kids' corner for cookie decorating with Bundles of Cookies, face painting and giveaways! For more information, go to: <http://www.bethesda.org/specialevents/taste/taste.htm>

Potomac Day 2006

Saturday, October 28, 2006

The Potomac Chamber is gearing up for its annual Potomac Day celebration. For more information, go to: http://www.potomacchamber.org/potomac_day_2004.html